



10¢

AUG.
NO. 47



House of SECRETS

**"CREATURES
of CAMOUFLAGE
FOREST!"**

RUN, ELSA! THOSE
CHAMELEON CREATURES
FROM SPACE CAN CHANGE
THEMSELVES TO LOOK LIKE
THEIR NATURAL
SURROUNDINGS!



A
**MARK
MERLIN**
MYSTERY

THE WORLD'S GREATEST MOLDER OF HANDSOME HE-MEN and CHAMPS out of WEAKLINGS says

YOU can now get FREE!

ALL these 5 famous PICTURE-PACKED COURSES to Make YOU a SUPER HE-MAN (formerly \$5.00 each) Now FREE to you if you mail coupon AT ONCE! LAST CHANCE!



"NO MATTER WHAT YOUR AGE I'll show you, by my quick, easy SECRETS

How to GAIN OR LOSE UP TO 50 LBS. FAST

like my pupils here did and THOUSANDS do now."

17 YEAR OLD SILLS



"I GAINED 60 LBS. OF SHAPELY MIGHTY MUSCLES."

BEFORE

Mailing coupon, I was a 125 lb., 6 ft. skinny weakling.

says JOHN SILL.

"I LOST 30 LBS. OF DANGEROUS UGLY FAT"

4 INCHES OFF MY WAIST!

28 year old Felipe Mendoza



"That 220 lb. FAT-BOY at the right was ME a few short weeks ago."

JOWETT streamlined my body, made me a new man my 47" chest my 32" waist 15" difference

attracts admiration at the beach.

YOU become A WINNER in ALL you do like these and MILLIONS of my pupils!



YOU become A STAR in ANY SPORT! YOU fear NO MAN or BULLY!

YOU can add 7 inches to your CHEST 3½ inches to each ARM and the rest in proportion just as I did.

YOU CAN WIN the 18" tall SILVER TROPHY with name on it, A GOLD MEDAL, \$100, as I did."

45 year old FATHER and 18 year old SON — new Pals — train JOWETT way together!



"Both gained pounds of powerful muscles. Advise all you fathers and sons to send for the Jowett courses without foolish delay."

—LARRY CAMPBELL

JOWETT INSTITUTE, Dept. NC 10

Great Neck, New York

SKINNY OR FAT, 15, 20, 30 or 40 YEARS OF AGE I'LL BUILD YOU INTO A NEW ATHLETIC MIGHTY-MUSCLED ALL-MALE HE-MAN

in 10 THRILLING MINUTES a day, as I have done to MILLIONS in 35 YEARS."

GEORGE JOWETT

4 TIMES WINNER WORLD'S STRONGEST and MOST PERFECTLY DEVELOPED MAN title, wearing CHAMPIONSHIP MEDALS, and MEDALS honoring him as "WORLD'S BEST Body Builder"

This new MAGNIFICENT, MODERN HERCULES, 28 year old teacher, William Butler,

says to YOU, "No matter WHAT your age, I advise you, SEND for the JOWETT WONDER PICTURE COURSES at once.

Under the World's GREATEST BODY-BUILDER, George Jowett, I now have 18½" ARMS, a 52" CHEST my STRENGTH has greatly improved. So have my sports. I have won titles like 'Mr. Virginia', 'Mr. State Y.M.C.A.', etc."

YOU can soon be a HERO of MEN like Butler is and an IDOL of WOMEN in a few weeks!

Yes! In just 10 THRILLING MINUTES a day, in the SECRECY of YOUR OWN ROOM at home, MY RAPID-FIRE, EASY as ABC FAMOUS PICTURE METHODS will start building you THE VERY FIRST NIGHT. I'll show you How to Mold 18 INCH ARMS of MIGHT, big, deep 48 INCH CHEST housing TIRELESS LUNGS, WIDE MANLY SHOULDERS — a BROAD BRAUNY BACK, tapering to a SLENDER WAIST with punch-proof STOMACH MUSCLES, LEGS of RUNNING POWER.

WOMEN always say, "I just adore JOWETT ALL-MALE HE-MEN".

NE! I don't care how skinny or flabby you are now, if you're in your teens, twenties, thirties or forties, I'll show you in just 10 thrilling minutes in your home, how you can make yourself over by the easy, quick method I turned myself from weak to WORLD CHAMPION and turned MILLIONS of others into all-male he-men!

YES! You'll add INCHES of MIGHTY MUSCLES to your ARMS, deepen your CHEST, broaden your BACK and SHOULDERS. From HEAD to HEELS you'll gain SIZE, POWER, LIGHTNING SPEED ENDURANCE. You'll become a SUCCESSFUL HE-MAN in LOOKS and ACTS — a WINNER in EVERYTHING — athletics, business, studies.



"I'm proud of you now, Tony"

Pascarella

BEFORE

Mailing coupon this JOWETT pupil was this 90 lb. skeleton. Gained 70 lbs. Made football team.

You wouldn't give me a tumble before I gained 28 JOWETT lbs.

JOWETT INSTITUTE OF PHYSICAL TRAINING, Dept. NC-18 GREAT NECK, NEW YORK

Dear George: Mail me FREE all 5 HE-MAN Building Picture Courses. Include PHOTO BOOK of FAMOUS STRONG MEN.

☐ I enclose 10c for mailing and handling. I am under no other obligation. I'm checking everything I need to give me the kind of body I want.

NAME _____ (please print or write plainly)

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CITY _____ ZONE _____ STATE _____

FREE

\$80 worth of Sports, Self-defense, Strong-man Stunts Courses Apparatus. Let me know how to get these FREE!

OUT OF THE SWIRLING MISTS OF TIME HE CAME, THE FANTASTIC FIGURE THEY CALLED ANSELMO THE GREAT! FLOATING ACROSS 500 YEARS, HE CAME TO SAVE THE LIFE OF HIS BRAVE, YOUNG DESCENDANT--A LIFE THAT DEPENDED ON THE...

RETURN OF THE PHANTOM PHYSICIAN



THIS MEDICINE OF YOURS MUST NOT FAIL ME, ANSELMO! TOO MANY LIVES DEPEND ON IT!

WHO'S THAT YOUNG DOCTOR TALKING TO? THERE'S NOBODY THERE!

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HOUSE OF SECRETS



AFTER A YEAR OF WORK IN A JUNGLE HOSPITAL, YOUNG DR. MILES MENKEN, WITH HIS GUIDE, STARTS THE LONG HOMEWARD TRAIL, WHEN...



KEN! LOOK OUT!

HUH--? TOO LATE!

A SHOT FROM MILES' RIFLE DRIVES THE BEAST OFF--BUT NOT BEFORE THE GUIDE IS GRAVELY INJURED...

I'M NOT GOING TO LIE TO YOU, KEN... THIS LOOKS BAD! INFECTION IS SETTING IN, AND I HAVEN'T A THING TO FIGHT IT WITH!

NO! SUBMITTING TO DEFEAT ALREADY, YOUNG DOCTOR?

WITH THOSE WORDS, MILES WHIRLS ABOUT, TO FACE A FANTASTIC FIGURE...

ANSELMO! IT'S YOU--JUST AS THE FAMILY LEGEND SAID! BUT--BUT I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST SOME OLD-WIVES' TALE!

STOP SPLUTTERING AND GAPING, BOY! THERE IS A LIFE TO BE SAVED! I SAW FAMILIAR MUSHROOMS GROWING IN THIS JUNGLE... GATHER SOME IMMEDIATELY!

AS THE YOUNG PHYSICIAN, IN A HALF-DAZE, BEGINS GATHERING THE PARASITIC PLANTS...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, PICKING MUSHROOMS, DOCTOR? AND WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO? THERE'S NO ONE HERE!

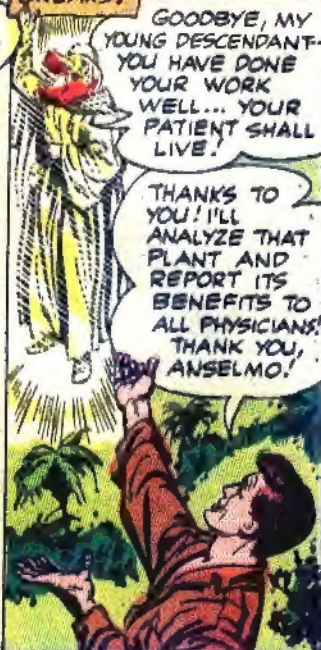
HE CANNOT SEE ME... ONLY YOU CAN! AND ONLY YOU CAN SAVE HIS LIFE... BUT YOU MUST HURRY!



UNDER INSTRUCTION, MILES QUICKLY PULVERIZES THE MUSHROOMS, ADMINISTERS THEM TO THE GUIDE... AND WITHIN MINUTES, THE FEVER BREAKS!

GOODBYE, MY YOUNG DESCENDANT--YOU HAVE DONE YOUR WORK WELL... YOUR PATIENT SHALL LIVE!

THANKS TO YOU! I'LL ANALYZE THAT PLANT AND REPORT ITS BENEFITS TO ALL PHYSICIANS! THANK YOU, ANSELMO!



LOOK--AM I STILL FEVERISH, OR WERE YOU TALKING TO THE AIR ALL THIS TIME?

NO, I WAS TALKING TO A GREAT MAN--WHO'S BEEN DEAD FOR 500 YEARS! I KNOW IT SOUNDS CRAZY, BUT--LISTEN...



"ANSELMO THE GREAT, THEY CALLED HIM--AND HE HAD ONLY TWO AMBITIONS... TO BE A FINE PHYSICIAN AND TO MAKE ONE OF HIS SON!"

ANSELMO, THE FOOL! DOES HE THINK HIS SILLY MESSAGE CAN MAKE THE CRIPPLED PRINCE WALK, WHEN ALL OUR POTIONS HAVE FAILED?

DO NOT LISTEN TO THOSE PRATTLERS, MY SON! HOLD THE LIGHT CLOSER, AND WATCH MY EVERY MOVE! LEARN!

"AND SURE ENOUGH, BEFORE LONG, UNDER THE MINISTRATIONS OF ANSELMO'S DEFT FINGERS..."

HE WALKS! MY SON WALKS! NAY, HE RUNS TO ME! SO ANSELMO IS A FOOL, EH? THEN LET ALL MY PHYSICIANS LEARN FROM THIS "FOOL!"

"NAMED COURT PHYSICIAN, ANSELMO PERFORMED MANY MORE WONDROUS FEATS--UNTIL, ONE NIGHT, WHEN THE KING HIMSELF LAY GRAVELY ILL..."

HIS MAJESTY GROWS WORSE--AND YOUR FATHER'S COACH HAS STILL NOT ARRIVED! YOU MUST BEGIN THE TREATMENT YOURSELF, YOUNG DOCTOR!

BUT I CAN'T, WITHOUT MY FATHER TO GUIDE ME! YET--I MUST... FOR HE WILL SURELY DIE OTHERWISE!

"ALONE, ANSELMO'S SON WAS WORKING TENSELY--UNCERTAINLY--WHEN SUDDENLY..."

FATHER! AT LAST, YOU ARE HERE! YOU MUST HURRY, IF YOU ARE TO SAVE HIM!

NOT I, MY SON! YOU HAVE BEGUN THE CURE... HE IS YOUR PATIENT NOW! I SHALL ONLY ASSIST YOU!

"THROUGH THE NIGHT THE YOUTH WORKED, UNDER HIS FATHER'S GUIDANCE--AND WITH THE DAWN, HE HAD A JOYOUS ANNOUNCEMENT..."

GOOD NEWS, YOUNG PRINCE! MY FATHER AND I HAVE SAVED THE KING!

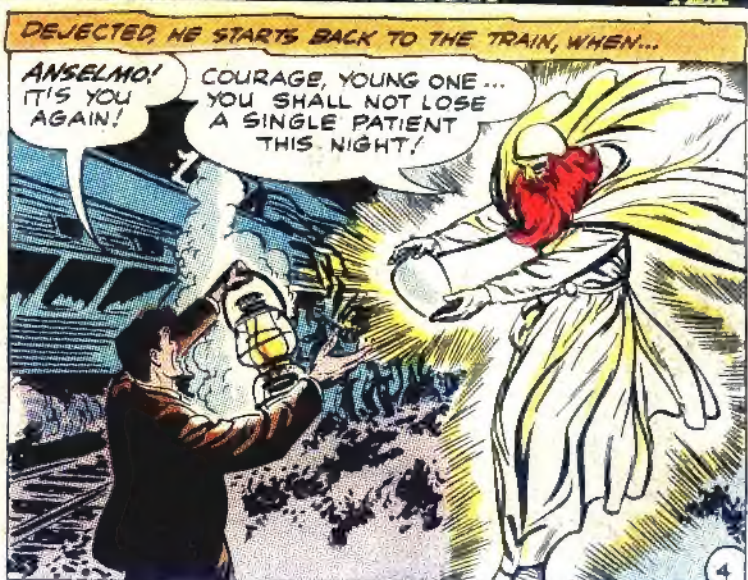
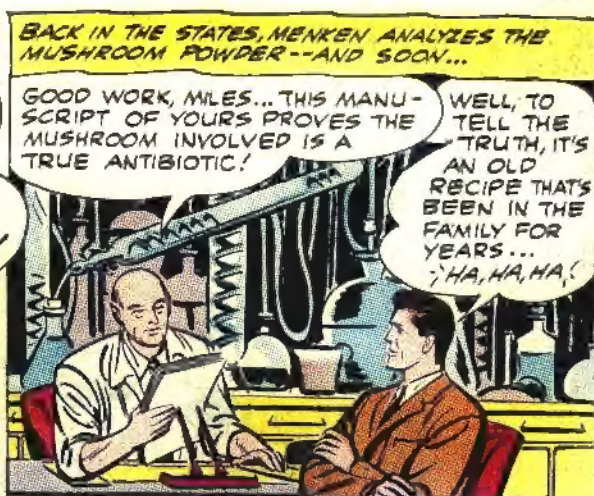
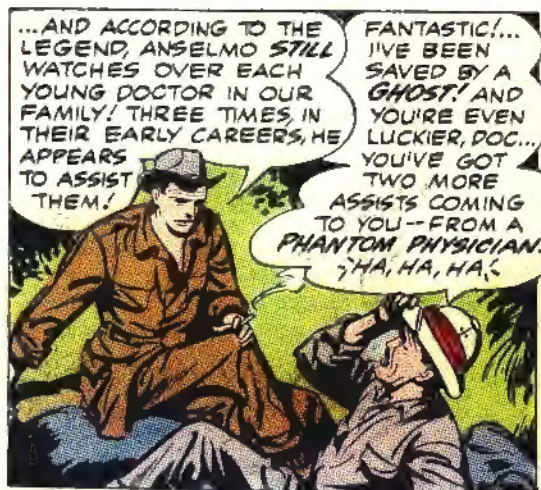
HE HIGHNESS WILL LIVE? THAT IS WONDROUS, BUT--BUT CERTAINLY YOU ARE MISTAKEN ABOUT ANSELMO'S HELP!

YOU SEE, WE DARED NOT INTERRUPT YOU WHEN THE NEWS CAME, DURING THE NIGHT, BUT--ANSELMO IS DEAD! HIS COACH OVERTURNED, AND...

FATHER DEAD?...IT CAN'T BE! AND YET, IT MUST BE SO! SOMEHOW, EVEN AFTER DEATH, HE FOUND A WAY TO GUIDE ME--TO SEE THAT I DID NOT FAIL!



HOUSE OF SECRETS



AFTER ANSELMO HANDS OVER A STRANGE LIQUID...

WAIT! DON'T LEAVE ME, ANSELMO! THERE'S SO MUCH I-- TOO LATE! HE'S VANISHING AGAIN!

BOY, THIS ACCIDENT MUST HAVE SHOOK UP THAT DOCTOR, TOO! HE'S TALKING TO HIMSELF!

SWIFTLY, MILES ADMINISTERS THE ANCIENT MEDICAMENT TO THE INJURED-- AND LATER, WHEN THE SUPPLIES ARRIVE...

AMAZING, DR. MENKEN! NOT ONE CASE OF SHOCK DEVELOPED HERE! HIGHLY UNUSUAL IN SUCH A DISASTER!

WELL--I HAD SOME...ER... HIGHLY UNUSUAL ASSISTANCE! BUT YOU'D NEVER BELIEVE ME, IF I TOLD YOU ABOUT IT!

IN THE YEARS THAT FOLLOW, MILES' REPUTATION MOUNTS EVER HIGHER, TILL FINALLY...

THAT'S DR. MILES MENKEN... THEY'RE FLYING HIM UP TO THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION TO ATTEND THE OLD MAN! THEY COULDN'T HAVE MADE A BETTER CHOICE!

AT THE GOVERNOR'S BEDSIDE, HOWEVER, MILES DELIVERS A GRIM VERDICT...

I MUST TELL YOU, HIS WIFE, THAT THERE IS JUST ONE KNOWN TECHNIQUE THAT CAN HELP HIM, AND THAT'S ONLY 22 PER CENT EFFECTIVE!

GO AHEAD DOCTOR... IF YOU CAN'T SAVE HIM, NO ONE CAN!

SURGERY IS USED TO REMOVE THE SOURCE OF INFECTION--BUT, LONG HOURS AFTER...

IT'S USELESS! HIS FEVER IS EVEN HIGHER THAN BEFORE WE OPERATED!

STILL THE PESSIMIST, EH, MILES?

GOOD OLD ANSELMO! YOU ALWAYS APPEAR WHEN I'M BEATEN! ONLY THIS TIME, I DON'T THINK EVEN YOU CAN HELP!

PITY YOURSELF LESS AND WORK HARDER, YOUNG DOCTOR! HERE, TRY THIS GOLDEN POWDER ON YOUR PATIENT!



AFTER ADMINISTERING THE STRANGE FORMULA, THE TWO SIT DOWN TO A LONG, PAINFUL WAIT...



AND, WITH THE DAWN...

WE'VE WON! HE'S GOING TO RECOVER! AND I'VE SAVED ENOUGH OF THE GOLDEN POWDER TO ANALYZE IT FOR GENERAL USE!

GOOD! AND NOW I GO -- THIS TIME FOREVER! I HAVE STOOD BY YOU WHILE YOU MATURED, YOUNG MILES... NOW YOU ARE ON YOUR OWN!



BUT SHORTLY AFTER ANSELNO LEAVES, THE CASE TAKES A GRIM TURN...

THE GOVERNOR'S HAD A SLIGHT RELAPSE! I'VE GOT TO USE THE REST OF THE GOLDEN POWDER TO SAVE HIM... THERE'S NO OTHER WAY!



HOURS LATER, WITH THE PATIENT COMPLETELY OUT OF DANGER...

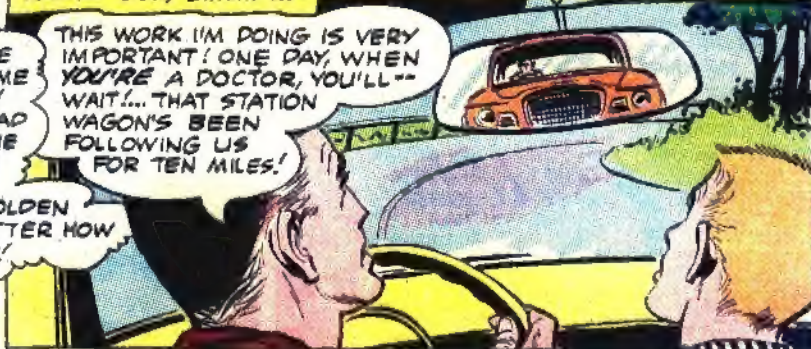
THREE CHEERS FOR THE DOC!

THEY DON'T REALIZE HOW CLOSE I CAME TO LOSING HIM! I'M GOING TO HEAD FOR MY LAB IN THE COUNTRY, AND FIND SOME WAY TO DUPLICATE THAT GOLDEN FORMULA, NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TAKES!

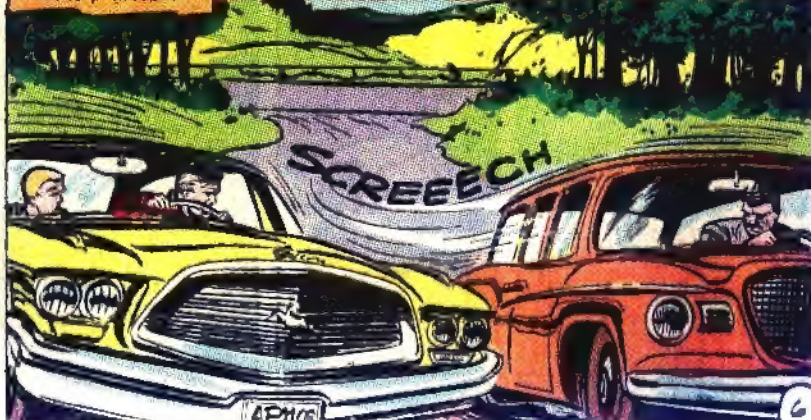


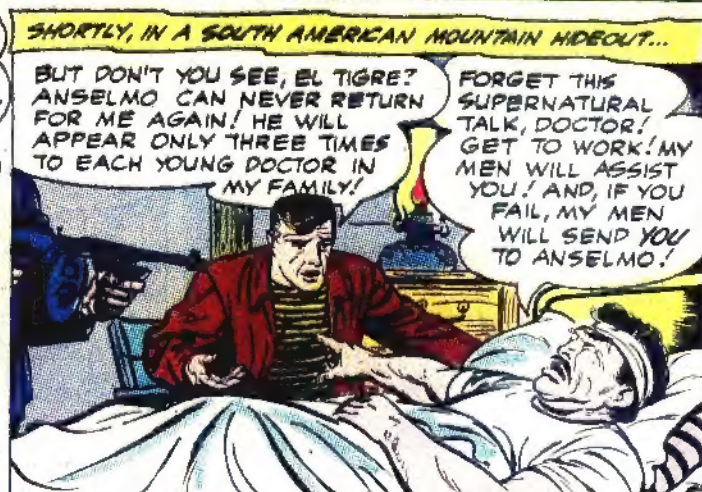
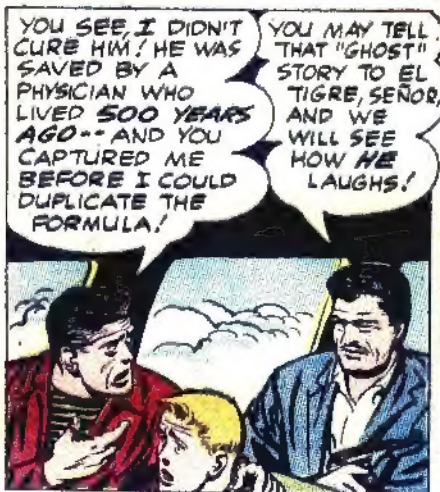
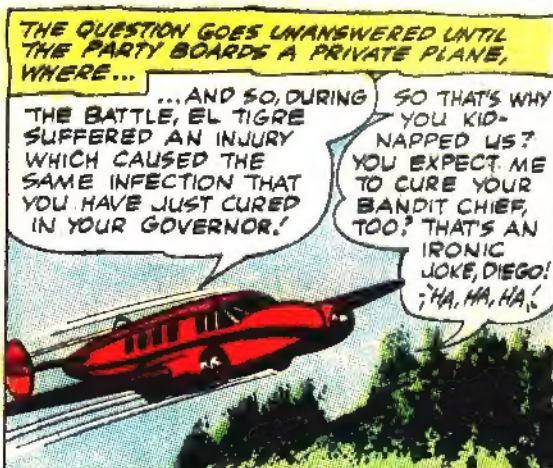
THIS, THE FOLLOWING DAY, AS MILES DRIVES NORTH WITH HIS YOUNG SON, JIMMY...

THIS WORK I'M DOING IS VERY IMPORTANT! ONE DAY, WHEN YOU'RE A DOCTOR, YOU'LL-- WAIT!... THAT STATION WAGON'S BEEN FOLLOWING US FOR TEN MILES!



ON A WILD HUNCH, MILES STARTS A SHARP TURN INTO A SIDE ROAD, WHEN...





SUDDENLY, AS A BLAST OF COLD AIR WHIPS THROUGH THE ROOM...

WAIT! YOU MUST NOT RUN THIS RISK! HERE, THE GOLDEN POWDER! USE IT WELL!

DADDY! IT'S ANSELMO! HE DID COME TO HELP YOU A FOURTH TIME! HE DID!

THEN, AS QUICKLY AS HE APPEARED, ANSELMO VANISHES AGAIN--AND MILES AND HIS YOUNG ASSISTANT SET TO WORK...

HE'S GOING TO LIVE, DADDY! AND YOU'VE GOT ENOUGH POWDER LEFT FOR YOUR ANALYSIS! BUT WHY DID ANSELMO RETURN AGAIN?

I DON'T KNOW, SON! I JUST DON'T KNOW! AND YET HE WAS HERE! YOU SAW HIM YOURSELF... YOU--WAIT!... THAT'S IT!



YOU WERE THE ONLY OTHER ONE WHO COULD SEE HIM! DO YOU UNDERSTAND?... ANSELMO APPEARS THREE TIMES FOR EACH YOUNG DOCTOR IN OUR FAMILY! AND, IN A SENSE, THIS WAS YOUR FIRST CASE, JIMMY!

HE CAME TO HELP ME, DAD! ANSELMO CAME TO GIVE ME A HAND, NOT YOU! AND SOME DAY, WHEN I'M A REAL DOCTOR, HE'LL COME TWICE AGAIN!



The End

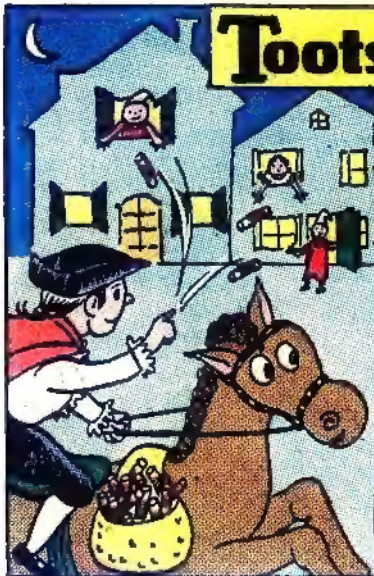
ADVERTISEMENT

Tootsie Roll makes HISTORY!

History says the ride of Paul Revere was to warn the folks the British were near. But between you and me the real cause for this feat was to wake everyone for a

Tootsie Roll TREAT!

AMERICA'S FAVORITE CANDY!



You Remember



AMERICA'S MOST EXCITING WAR GAME

2 GIANT BATTLEFIELDS a total size of 3 square feet.
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- 4 AIRCRAFT CARRIERS 24 PLANES
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These unbreakable 3-D plastic toys are authentically scaled and each is realistically proportioned to the giant battle-field. (For toys only see coupon below)

375 RED MARKERS

enough to record the most savage bombings and shelling

SIMPLE DIRECTIONS

etc. for 2 or 4 players, from 8 to 20 who enjoy being armchair generals.

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TASK FORCE sets in stores for \$3.00 but to offer it to you for the amazingly low price of \$1.25 we have omitted the bulky box, wholesaler and retailer. By saving those expensive and unnecessary costs you receive the very same playing pleasure and save \$1.75 by ordering directly from the manufacturer. What's the game but surprised when you know them TASK FORCE and when you see it cost the unbelievable price of \$1.25 they will all want one. SO ACT NOW!!!

ONLY \$1.00 PLUS POSTAGE

HELEN OF TOY, CO. NO C.O.D.'s
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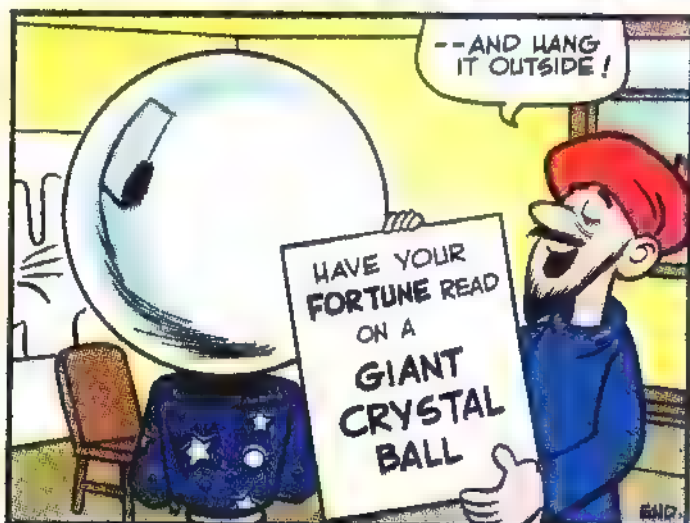
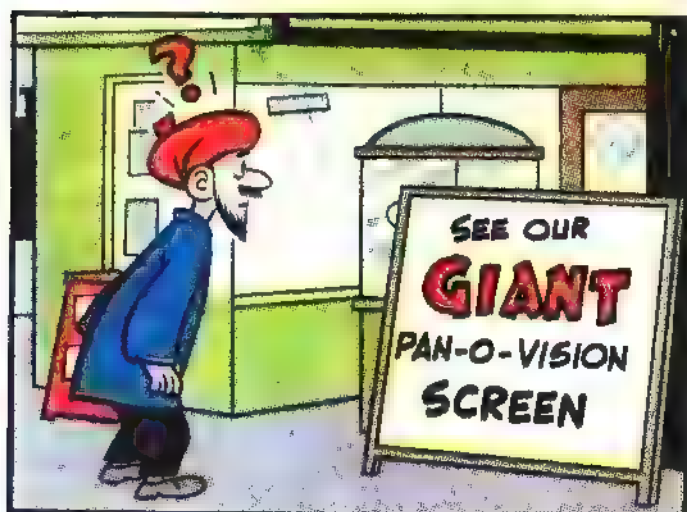
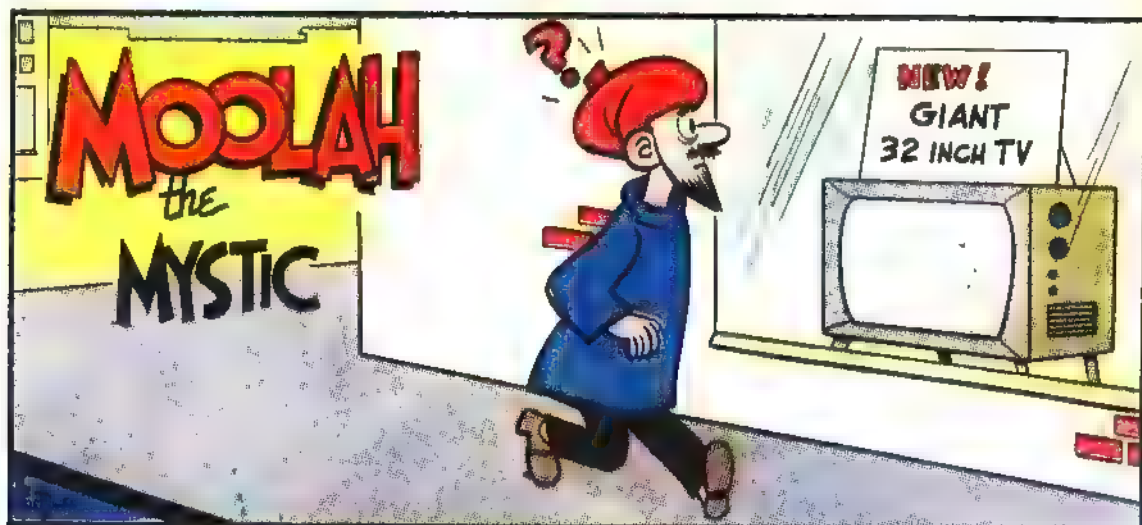
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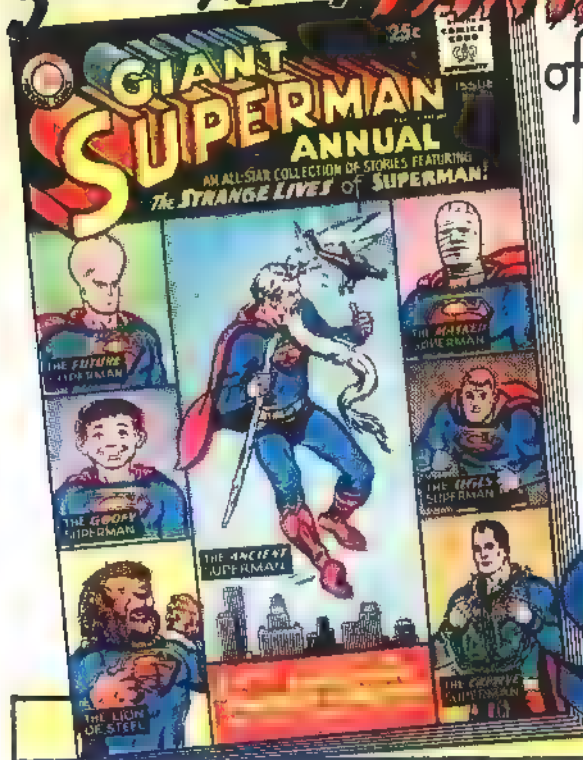
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AT LAST!

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is here!

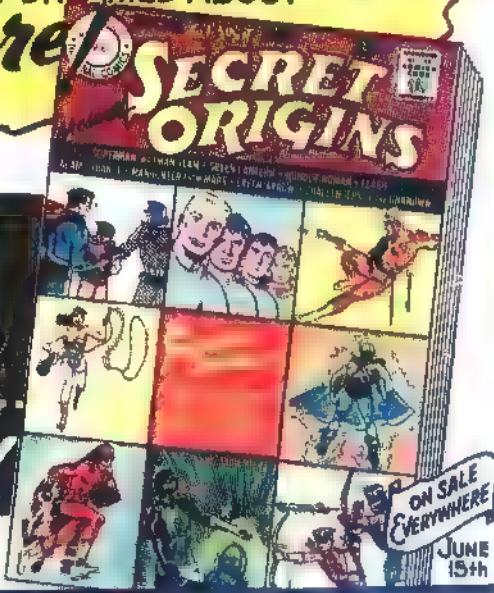
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All together in
ONE MAGAZINE!



DON'T MISS THIS SPECTACULAR ISSUE! YOU'LL TREASURE IT ALL YOUR LIFE!





GEOLOGIST BART HOBBS WAS A THIEF--AND YET HE WAS APPARENTLY INNOCENT OF HIS CRIMES! FOR, THROUGH FANTASTIC CIRCUMSTANCES, THE ELEMENTS OF THE EARTH POSSESSED HIS BODY AND MIND, TRANSFORMING HIM INTO A VERITABLE CREATURE! YET, IT APPEARED THAT NO JURY IN THE WORLD COULD CONDEMN...

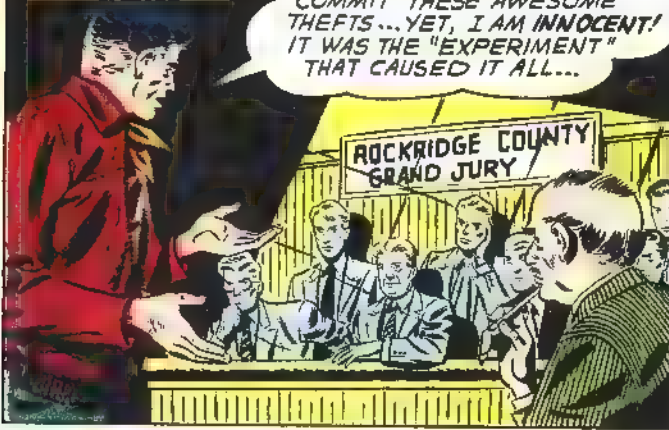
the **MAN** with the **MINERAL** **POWERS**

HURRY, MEN--HOIST HOBBS INTO THE AIR! IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO NEUTRALIZE THIS INCREDIBLE COPPER TRANSFORMATION!

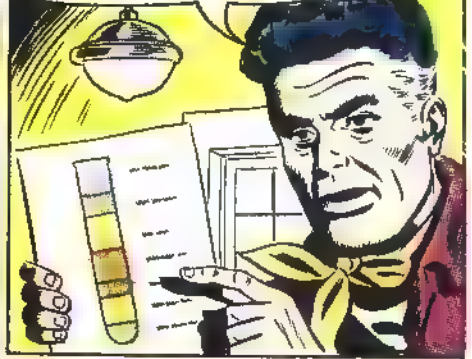


A STUNNED GRAND JURY LISTENS, AS GEOLOGIST BART HOBBS MAKES A STARTLING STATEMENT IN HIS DEFENSE...

YES, IT IS TRUE--I DID COMMIT THESE AWESOME THEFTS...YET, I AM INNOCENT! IT WAS THE "EXPERIMENT" THAT CAUSED IT ALL...



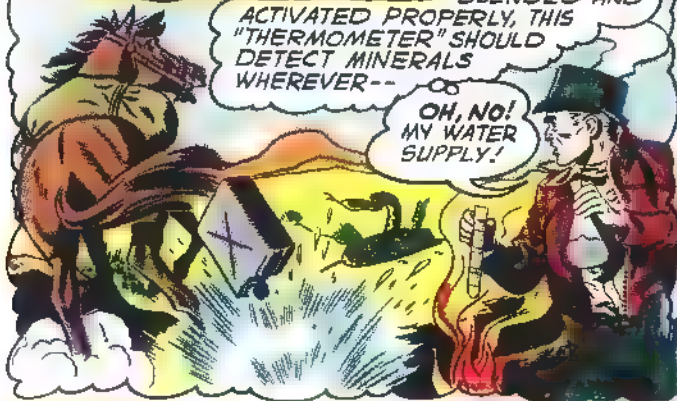
FOR MONTHS, I HAD BEEN DEVELOPING MY MINERAL DETECTOR-- A TUBE OF DELICATELY BLENDED MINERALS THAT I HOPED COULD LOCATE VALUABLE DEPOSITS BENEATH THE EARTH'S SURFACE!



"JUST A WEEK AGO, MY HEART RACED WITH EXCITEMENT AS I TREKKED DEEP INTO YOUR DESERT TO TEST MY DEVICE--AND THAT'S WHEN IT HAPPENED..."

BLENDED AND ACTIVATED PROPERLY, THIS "THERMOMETER" SHOULD DETECT MINERALS WHEREVER--

OH, NO! MY WATER SUPPLY!



"IT WAS GONE-- EVERY LAST PRECIOUS DROP OF MY WATER! THE HOT DESERT SUN BEAT DOWN ON ME UNMERCIFULLY, UNTIL..."

C-CAN'T GO ON... MUST DRINK THE WATER I'VE BLENDED MY MINERALS IN-- THEN START THE EXPERIMENT ALL OVER AGAIN...



"I GAGGED ON THE BITTER SOLUTION...BUT IT KEPT ME ALIVE LONG ENOUGH TO REACH MY CABIN ON STATE HIGHWAY#1..."

ONLY A FEW MORE MILES-- JUST AN HOUR TO THE CABIN... I'LL MAKE ANOTHER MINERAL BLEND... TEST IT AGAIN IN A FEW DAYS...



"BUT, JUST WHEN SAFETY SEEMED CERTAIN..."

EH?... A RINGING AND HAMMERING INSIDE MY HEAD! A-AND MY LEG...IT'S TURNING SILVERY BLUE!





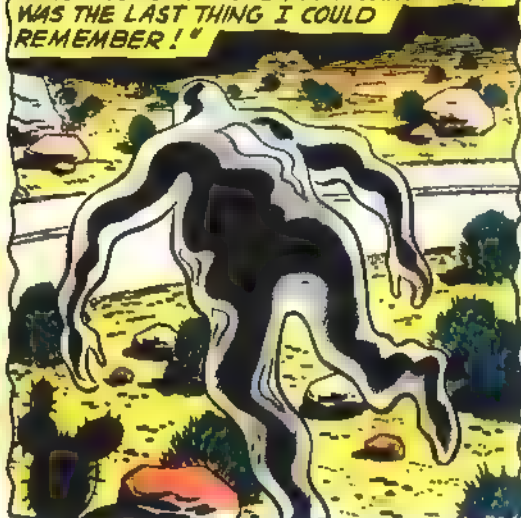
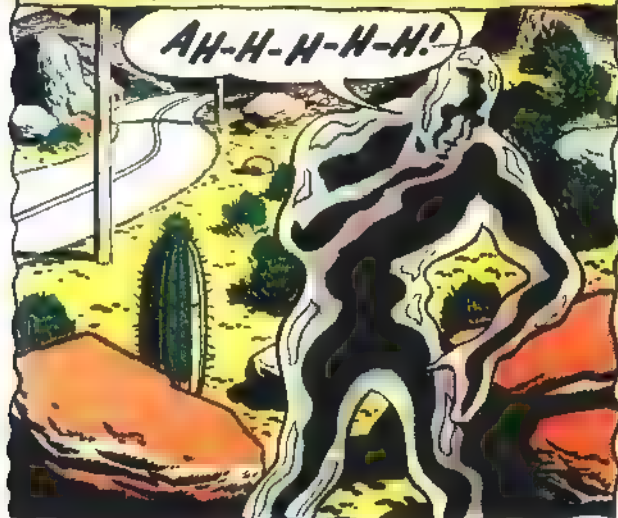
HOUSE OF SECRETS



"HOW CAN I DESCRIBE THE TERRIBLE POWERS THAT TWISTED MY MIND AND CONTORTED MY BODY DURING THAT FEARFUL MOMENT..."

AH-H-H-H-H!

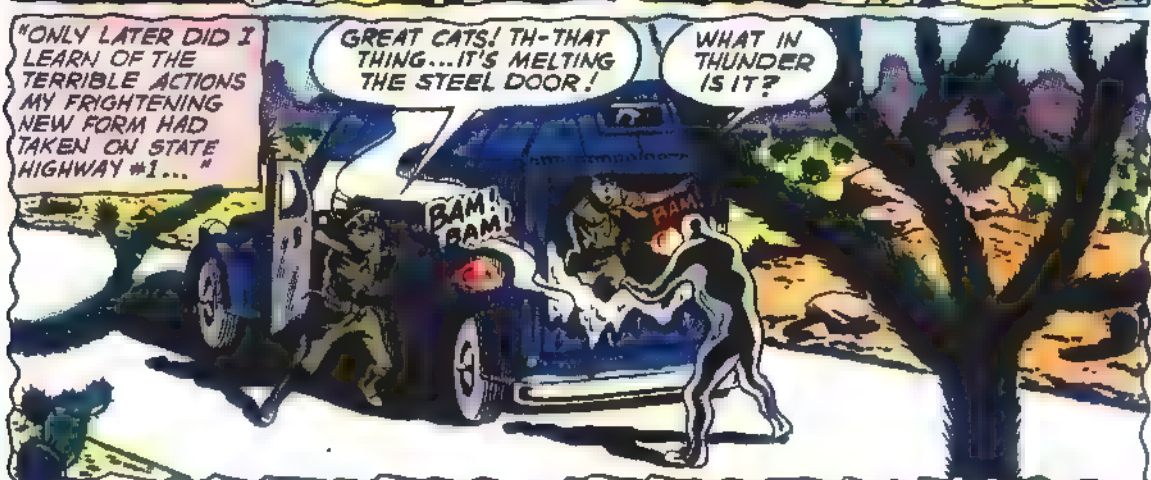
"I RECALL MYSELF MOVING--STALKING UNCONTROLLABLY--LIKE SOME BIZARRE BEAST ACROSS THE SANDS... AND THAT WAS THE LAST THING I COULD REMEMBER!"



"ONLY LATER DID I LEARN OF THE TERRIBLE ACTIONS MY FRIGHTENING NEW FORM HAD TAKEN ON STATE HIGHWAY #1..."

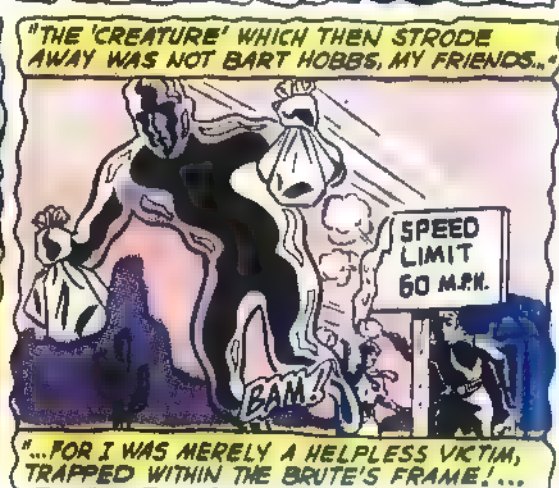
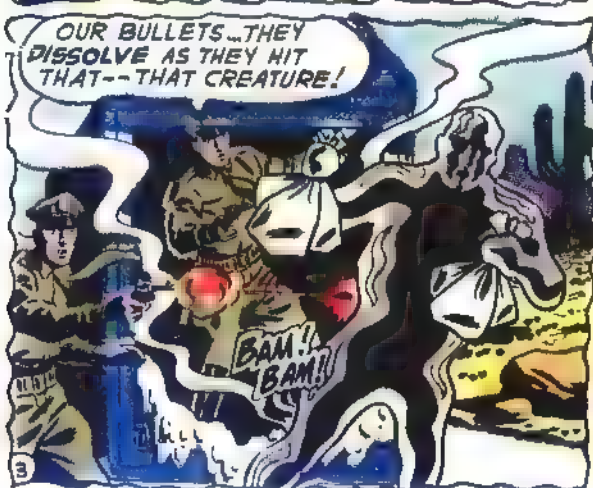
GREAT CATS! TH-THAT THING...IT'S MELTING THE STEEL DOOR!

WHAT IN THUNDER IS IT?



OUR BULLETS...THEY DISSOLVE AS THEY HIT THAT--THAT CREATURE!

"THE 'CREATURE' WHICH THEN STRODE AWAY WAS NOT BART HOBBS, MY FRIENDS..."



"...FOR I WAS MERELY A HELPLESS VIKTIM, TRAPPED WITHIN THE BRUTE'S FRAME!..."



HOUSE OF SECRETS



"I KNEW NOTHING OF THE CRIME UNTIL THE FOLLOWING MORNING, WHEN I REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS IN MY CABIN..."

...AND ARMORED CAR GUARDS SAY THE SILVER CREATURE ACTUALLY DISSOLVED THE BULLETS THEY FIRED DURING THIS FANTASTIC \$100,000 THEFT!

THESE CURRENCY WRAPPERS--AND EMPTY MONEY SACKS... I MUST HAVE COMMITTED THAT CRIME, WHILE I WAS BLACKED OUT! BUT... NOW?



"IN ONE BRAIN-NUMBING INSTANT, A FEARSOME THOUGHT STRUCK ME..."

BULLETS DISSOLVED OF COURSE! THE MINERAL DETECTOR SOLUTION I DRANK CONTAINED MERCURY, WHICH CAN DISSOLVE MOST METALS! S-SOMEHOW, THE COMBINATION OF MINERALS MUST HAVE CHANGED MY BODY CHEMISTRY TO THE PROPERTIES OF MERCURY!



"THEN AS I RUSHED TOWARD THE NEARBY DESERT VIEW CLUB FOR A RIDE TO TOWN..."

MUST EXPLAIN TO THE POLICE AT ONCE--MUST-OH-H-H! WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?



"AS I STAGGERED INTO THE CLUB PARKING LOT GASES SWIRLED ABOUT ME, AND MY SENSES REELED..."

YAAAAA!



"PLEASE YOU MUST BELIEVE ME--OF THAT NEXT TERRIBLE HALF HOUR IN THE EXCLUSIVE DESERT VIEW CLUB, I KNOW NOTHING..."

I COUGH!! COUGH!! A--A THIEF, ENVELOPED IN GAS--ROBBING THE GUESTS... KNOCKING THEM OUT!



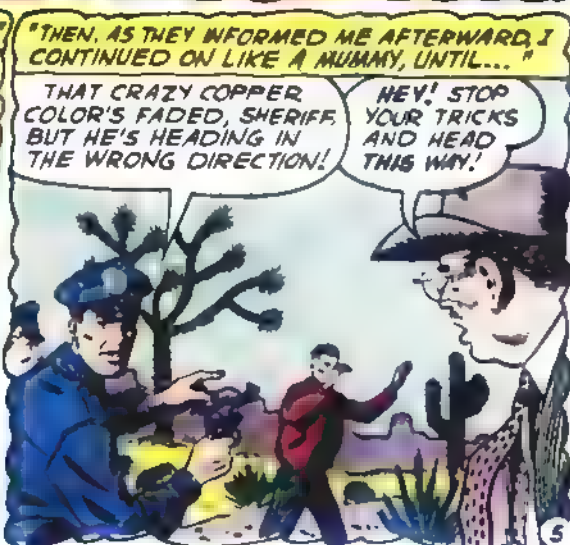
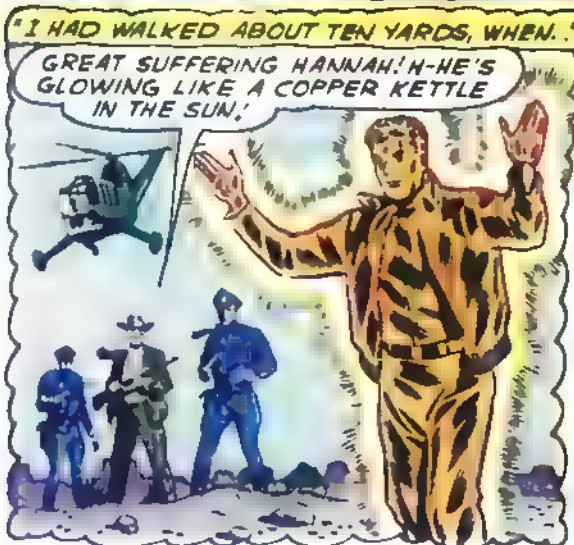
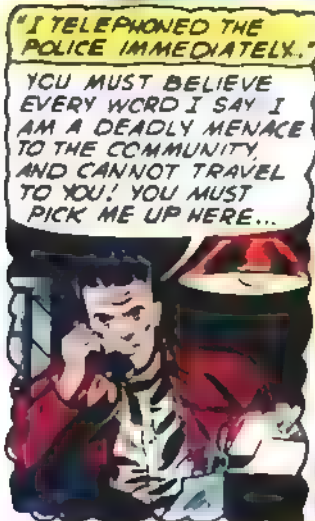
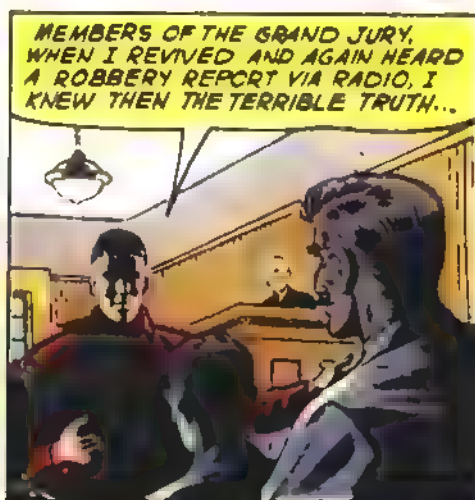
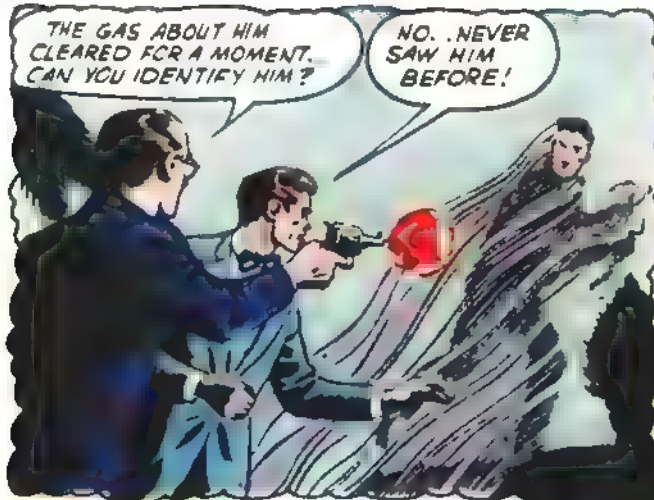
"MY ARMS HELD THE JEWELS, MY LEGS RACED TO ESCAPE..."

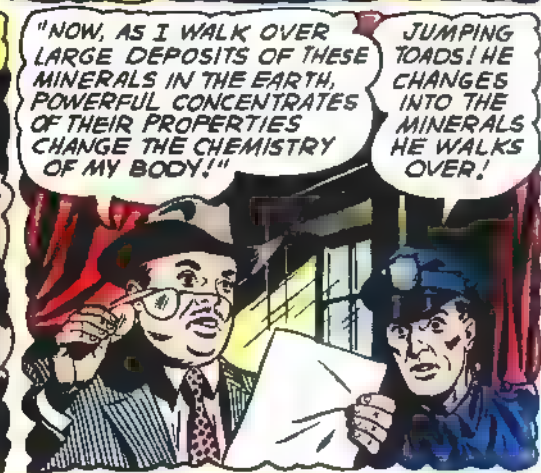
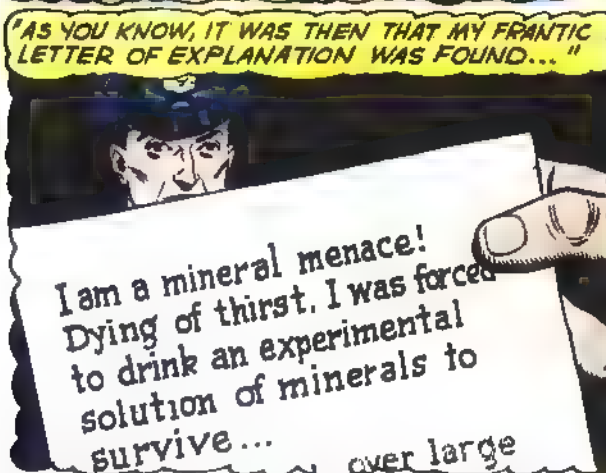
SHOOT HIM! SHOOT HIM!





HOUSE OF SECRETS







HOUSE OF SECRETS



"I REGAINED MY HUMAN FORM WITHIN THE COPTER--AND, AFTER THE POLICE DOCTOR MADE A THOROUGH EXAMINATION..."

HE SEEMS PERFECTLY NORMAL NOW...I CAN'T FIND THE SLIGHTEST TRACE OF MINERAL DEPOSITS IN HIS SYSTEM!

THEN... THEN THE EFFECTS OF THE LIQUID MUST HAVE FINALLY WORN OFF! THANK GOODNESS, I'M FREE... FREE OF THEIR POWERS!



THAT, GENTLEMEN, IS MY INCREDIBLE STORY! MY FATE IS IN YOUR HANDS!

WE SYMPATHIZE WITH YOU, SIR... BUT WHAT OF THE PLUNDER FROM THESE THEFTS THAT YOU COMMITTED?



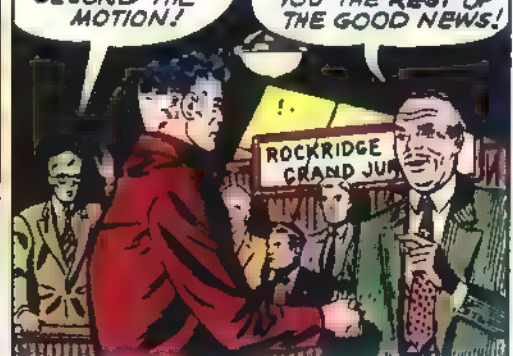
I-- I'M SORRY, SIR... I CAN REMEMBER NOTHING WHILE IN THAT CONDITION! BUT PERHAPS IN TIME...

GENTLEMEN, MR. HOBBS IS CLEARLY INNOCENT OF HIS ACTIONS! I MOVE THAT THE CHARGES AGAINST THIS MAN BE DISMISSED!



YES--THE SHERIFF VOUCHES FOR HIS FANTASTIC TRANSFORMATIONS! I SECOND THE MOTION!

CONGRATULATIONS, HOBBS-- YOU'RE A FREE MAN! NOW, I CAN GIVE YOU THE REST OF THE GOOD NEWS!



OUTSIDE THE COURT HOUSE...

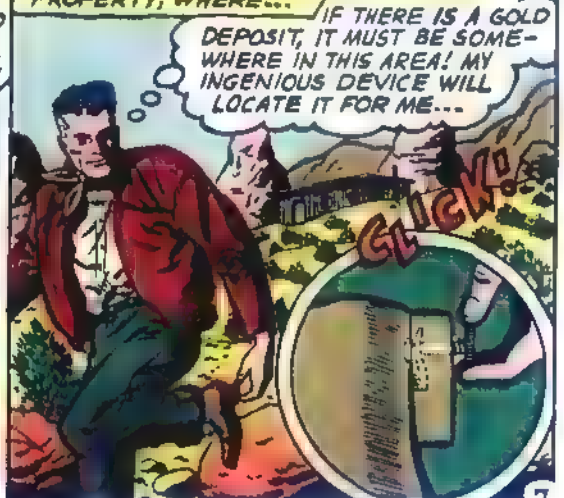
IT'S GOLD, SURE AS SHOOTIN', MR. HOBBS... AND ACCORDIN' TO MY CALCULATIONS, THE VEIN RUNS SOMEWHERE THROUGH THE NORTH ACRE OF YOUR LAND!

A POSSIBLE GOLD MINE?... ON MY LAND? I'VE GOT TO LOOK INTO THIS AT ONCE... EXCUSE ME, GENTLEMEN!



HIS MIND FIRED, HOBBS RACES TO HIS PROPERTY, WHERE...

IF THERE IS A GOLD DEPOSIT, IT MUST BE SOMEWHERE IN THIS AREA! MY INGENUOUS DEVICE WILL LOCATE IT FOR ME...



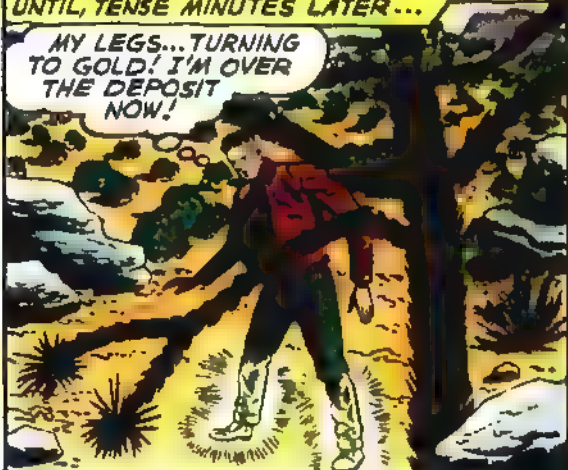


HOUSE OF SECRETS



THE GEOLOGIST BEGINS A CIRCLING MOVEMENT, UNTIL, TENSE MINUTES LATER...

MY LEGS...TURNING TO GOLD! I'M OVER THE DEPOSIT NOW!



MY MINERAL DETECTOR... CONCEALED IN MY SHOE...IT'S REGISTERING A HUGE GOLD DEPOSIT! I'M RICH...RICH!



BUT WAIT... THIS AREA WILL BE SWARMING WITH MEN WHEN I HIRE THEM TO MINE THE GOLD! CAN'T TAKE ANY CHANCES...



HOBBS RACES TO A NEARBY CAVE, WHERE...

I MUST REMOVE MY PLUNDER TO A SAFER PLACE...OR EVEN USE IT TO FINANCE THE GOLD MINING! HA, HA...I'VE OUTWITTED THEM ALL!

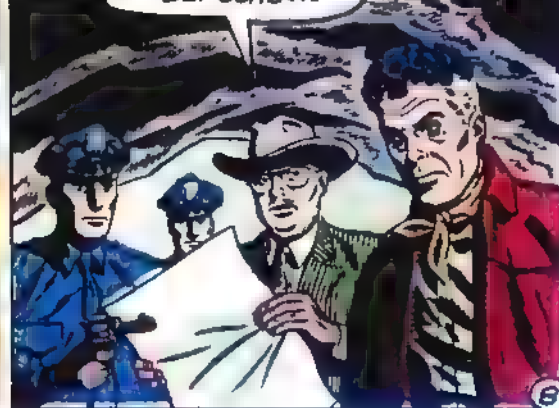


THE ONLY ONE WHO'S BEEN OUTWITTED IS YOU, HOBBS...WITH FOOL'S GOLD!

WHAT--? SHERIFF... I DON'T UNDERSTAND!



I BECAME SUSPICIOUS WHEN WE ARRIVED AT YOUR CABIN AND WATCHED THE TRANSFORMATIONS! YOUR NOTE STATED THAT YOU WERE PHYSICALLY AFFECTED BY LARGE MINERAL DEPOSITS...



I STUDIED A STRATA MAP OF THE AREA WHERE YOU TRANSFORMED FIRST INTO COPPER, THEN INTO CLAY--AND I THOUGHT IT RATHER STRANGE THAT YOU MOVED DIRECTLY FROM ONE DEPOSIT TO THE OTHER...

THAT INDICATED TO ME THAT YOU KNEW EXACTLY WHAT YOU WERE DOING ALL THE TIME! BUT PROVING IT WAS ANOTHER MATTER!

I GET IT... SO YOU RIGGED THIS GOLD STRIKE TO TEST ME, EH? YOU KNEW OF THE FOOL'S GOLD DEPOSIT ON MY LAND!

YES--AND WE SAW YOU ACTIVATE THAT DEVICE IN YOUR SHOE TO FIND THE GOLD DEPOSIT... BUT WE DIDN'T WANT TO CLOSE IN UNTIL WE RECOVERED THE STOLEN LOOT!

SO IT WAS ALL A HOAX! HE INVENTED A DEVICE TO DETECT MINERALS, AND USED IT TO COMMIT CRIMES! BUT WHY DID HE FINGER HIMSELF, SHERIFF?

BECAUSE, IF HE COULD "SELL" HIS LIE TO THE GRAND JURY, HE WOULD HAVE BEEN ABOVE SUSPICION-- AND COULD EVENTUALLY HAVE SPENT THE LOOT WITHOUT BEING A WANTED MAN!

I HAD COMMITTED AN INGENUOUS CRIME... ONLY TO BE DONE IN BY FOOL'S GOLD!

The End 9

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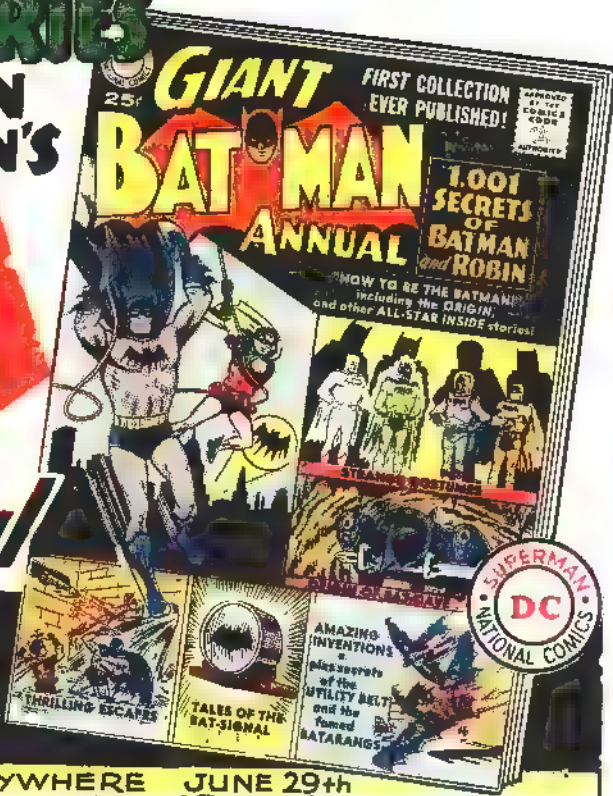
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ISSUES

THE DAY THE WORLD VANISHED

CAPTAIN Ricky Blake awoke just before dawn with a terrific thirst. He stumbled out of bed, and on his way to the water cooler glanced at the five soldiers whose cots were lined up against one wall of the large room they occupied together.

Officers don't usually bed down in the same room as the men under their command, but this happened to be the only room available. After all, this wasn't a regular post. And they were here under rather strange circumstances.

Reports of a large UFO (Unidentified Flying Object) in this area had been coming in with disturbing frequency. And it was in this remote area that scientists were completing a test model for a new secret weapon. Blake and seven men were rushed here, together with a nuclear gun that could give a good account of itself in case of trouble.

They had arrived the previous evening. Blake had assigned two guards outside, and the rest had turned in.

The captain took a long drink from the cooler, and headed back to his bed. He glanced idly at the bouquet of white water lilies that stood on the window sill. Someone had sent them over late last night, and they still emitted a strong scent.

Blake stretched out in bed. But sleep refused to return, so he climbed out of bed, and crossed toward the window. Dawn had broken.

He peered out, and gasped. He rubbed his eyes, shook his head, and peered out again.

"Men—on your feet!" he cried.

The soldiers leaped from their cots and came running to the window. They followed his stare.

One of the soldiers asked in astonishment, "It's impossible! Wh-Where—is—everything?"

Yes, it was true. The sprawling laboratory was gone. The woods beyond

were gone. Everything outside seemed to be cloaked by a thick veil. Even the earth was coated by a misty layer. The sky was the same color. There was nothing outside—nothing!

"What's it all mean? What's happened?" came a voice behind Blake. But he could only shake his head. "I—I don't know, I don't know!"

He took out his handkerchief and mopped his brow. His hand quivered, and the handkerchief fluttered from his grasp.

Blake reached out for it, but it went sailing out through the open door. And right before his very eyes, it vanished.

Blake sniffed. The scent of the lilies came strongly to him. And, suddenly, he ran to the bouquet of lilies, grabbed it out of the vase, and flung it into a locker, slamming shut the door.

To the men looking out, the scene outside began to change. The familiar objects slowly took form, and the strange mist lifted. Everything was back to normal, except for one thing—a huge spaceship was on the point of landing. Blake snapped an order, and, minutes later, a warning shot exploded over the alien ship. The vehicle reversed its course and went hurtling back into space.

The men crowded around Blake. The captain took a deep breath, and explained. "One of them probably slipped down beforehand, and sneaked those alien lilies in here. The scent had the power to affect our senses, making it impossible for us to see or hear anything beyond a certain point."

"They were after the secret plans for the new weapon," said one of the soldiers. "But what tipped you off, Captain?"

"Those lilies," answered Blake. "Earth lilies close up during the night, but those alien flowers were in full bloom when I woke up before dawn."

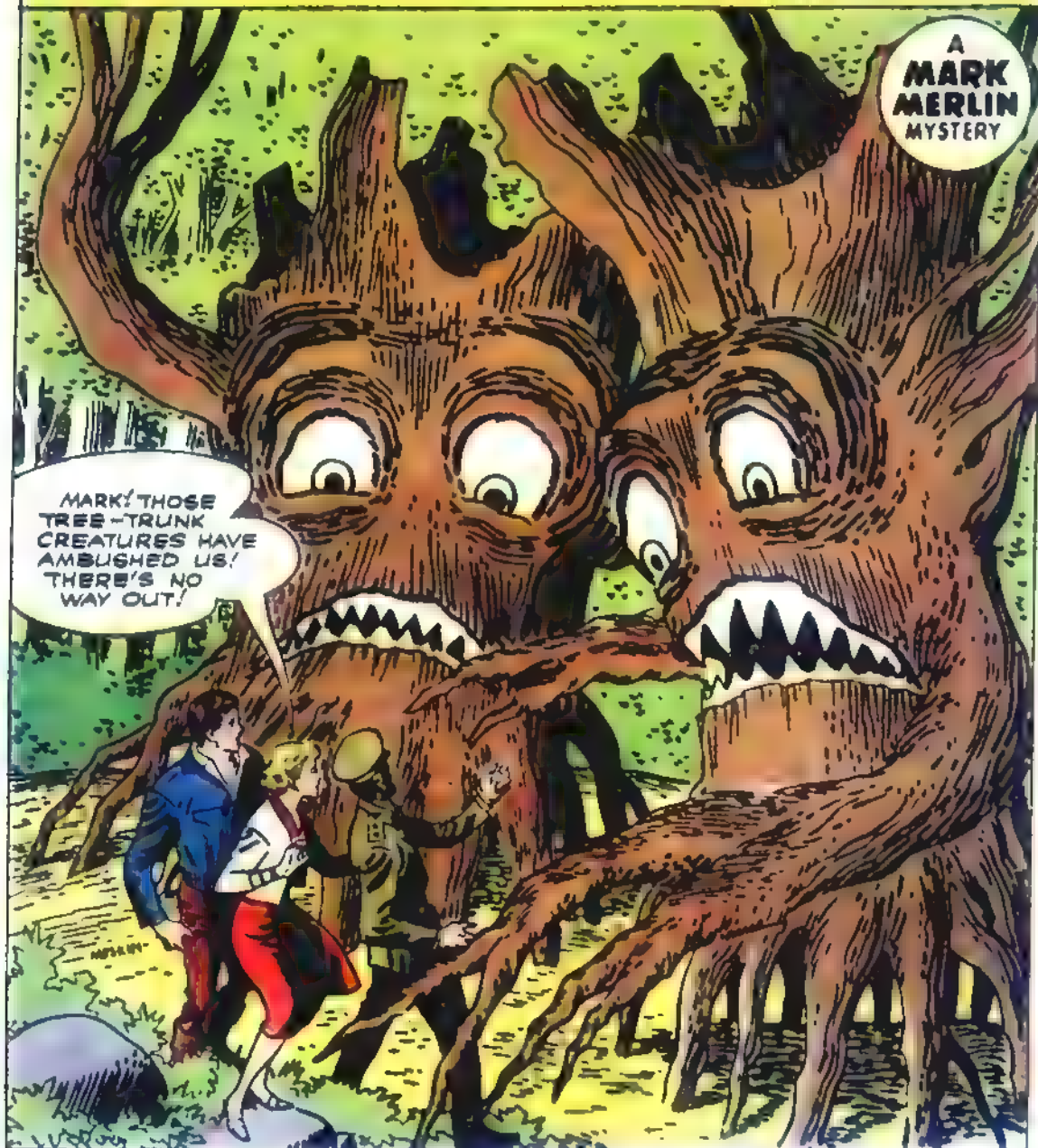


THERE WAS NO STOPPING THEM, FOR THEY POSSESSED THE FANTASTIC POWER TO CHANGE THEIR FORM AT WILL... AND MARK MERLIN, FEARLESS SLEUTH OF THE SUPERNATURAL, FACED SUDDEN DEATH BEHIND EVERY TREE AND STONE, WHEN HE DARED TO CHALLENGE...

the CREATURES of CAMOUFLAGE FOREST

A
MARK
MERLIN
MYSTERY

MARK! THOSE
TREE-TRUNK
CREATURES HAVE
AMBUSHED US!
THERE'S NO
WAY OUT!



HISTORY IS IN THE MAKING, AS TWO ASTRONAUTS HURTLE INTO SPACE ON A SECRET FLIGHT...

WE'RE ALMOST AT OUR HIGH POINT, RALPH!

RIGHT... I'LL SLOW DOWN FOR THE TURN!



BUT, NEXT MOMENT...

ROY! I SLOWED THE SHIP TOO MUCH... THE GRAVITATIONAL PULL OF THAT ASTEROID IS DRAWING US DOWN!

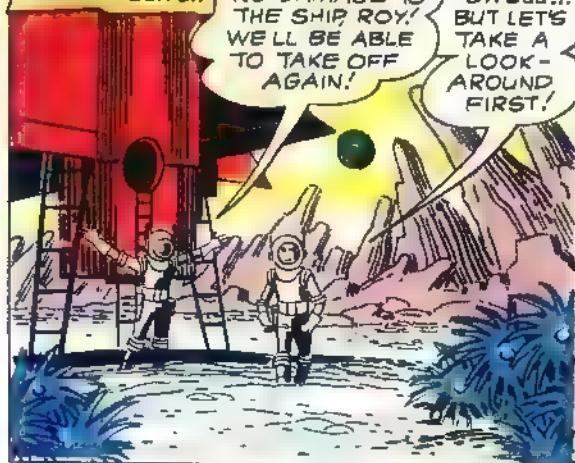
PREPARE FOR CRASH-LANDING!



BEFORE LONG...

NO DAMAGE TO THE SHIP, ROY! WE'LL BE ABLE TO TAKE OFF AGAIN!

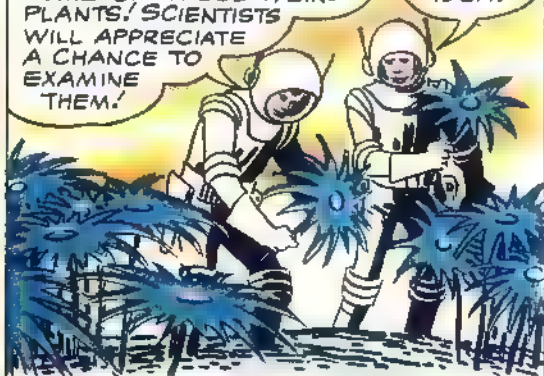
SWELL... BUT LET'S TAKE A LOOK-AROUND FIRST!



THE SPACE VISITORS GAPE IN AWE AT THEIR ALIEN SURROUNDINGS...

SAY, RALPH--LET'S PICK SOME OF THESE WEIRD PLANTS! SCIENTISTS WILL APPRECIATE A CHANCE TO EXAMINE THEM!

GOOD IDEA!



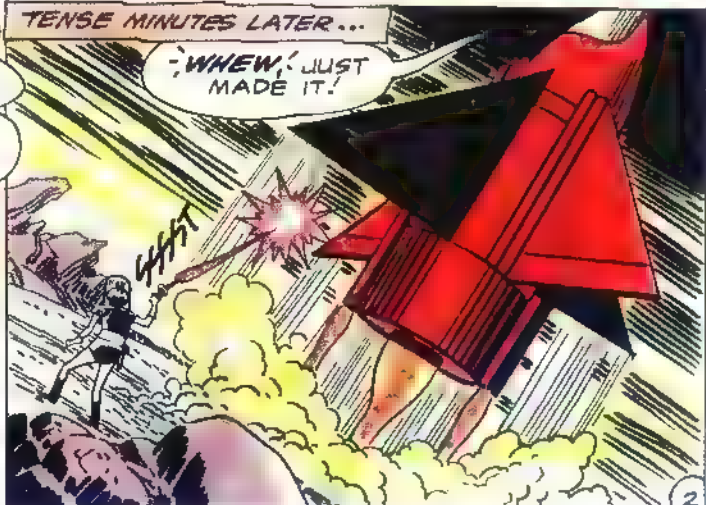
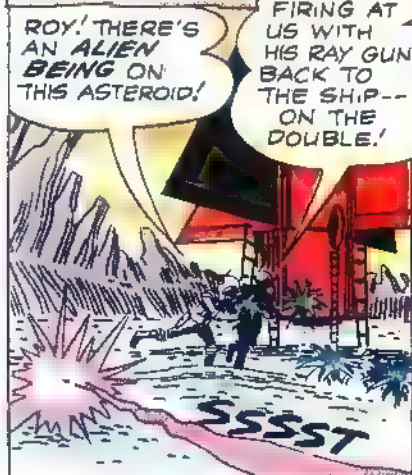
BUT, JUST THEN...

ROY! THERE'S AN ALIEN BEING ON THIS ASTEROID!

Y-YES... FIRING AT US WITH HIS RAY GUN! BACK TO THE SHIP-- ON THE DOUBLE!

TENSE MINUTES LATER...

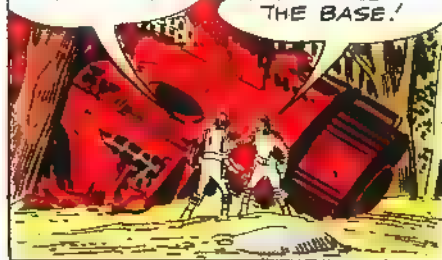
WHEW! JUST MADE IT!



IN A REMOTE FOREST, ON EARTH,
SOME TIME LATER...

THE SHIP'S A
TOTAL WRECK,
RALPH... WE
WERE LUCKY
TO GET OUT
IN ONE PIECE!

IT'S NOT
OUR FAULT IF
WE RAN OUT OF
FUEL! STAND
GUARD, PAL --
WHILE I NOTIFY
THE BASE!



THAT SAME DAY, AS GENERAL CHESTER MILLS
SURVEYS THE SCENE WITH AN OLD FRIEND, MARK
MERLIN, FAR-FAMED INVESTIGATOR OF THE SUPER-
NATURAL...

YOU'RE LOOKING
AT WHAT WAS
EARTH'S FIRST
SPACESHIP,
MARK!

MY SECRETARY AND I
APPRECIATE THE HONOR,
GENERAL... YOUR
PILOTS DID A
FINE JOB!

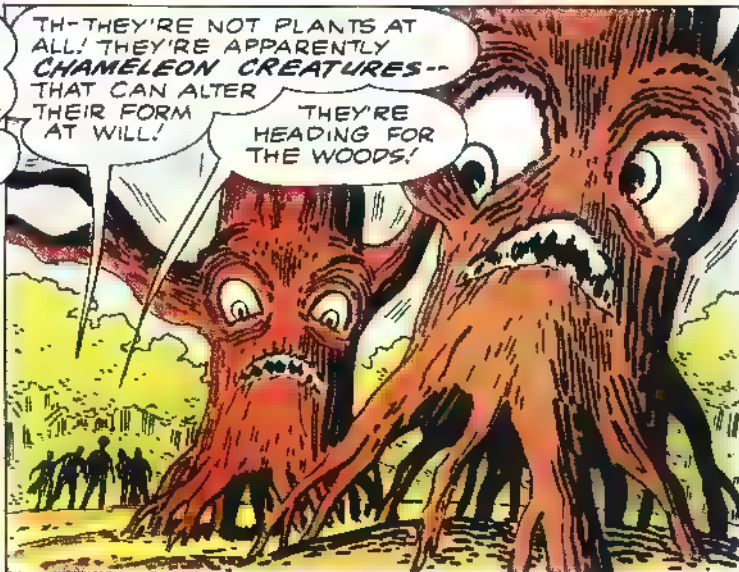
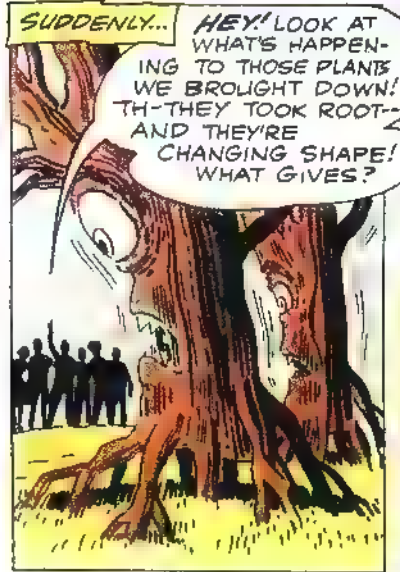


SUDDENLY...

HEY! LOOK AT
WHAT'S HAPPEN-
ING TO THOSE PLANTS
WE BROUGHT DOWN!
TH-THEY TOOK ROOT--
AND THEY'RE
CHANGING SHAPE!
WHAT GIVES?

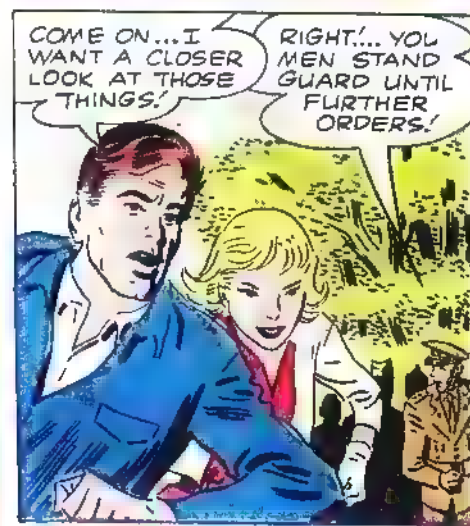
TH-THEY'RE NOT PLANTS AT
ALL! THEY'RE APPARENTLY
CHAMELEON CREATURES--
THAT CAN ALTER
THEIR FORM
AT WILL!

THEY'RE
HEADING FOR
THE WOODS!



COME ON...I
WANT A CLOSER
LOOK AT THOSE
THINGS!

RIGHT!... YOU
MEN STAND
GUARD UNTIL
FURTHER
ORDERS!

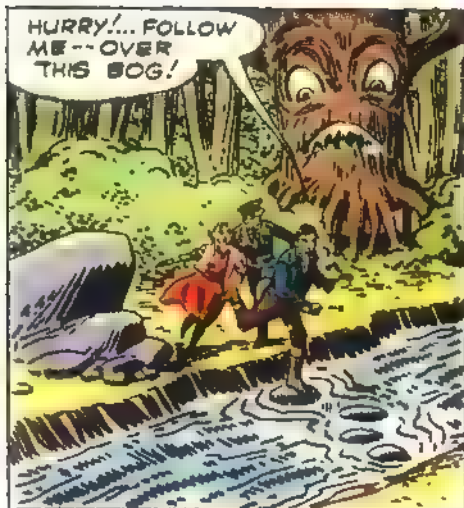


BUT, AS THE TRIO ENTERS A DENSE AREA...

EEK!... ONE
OF THEM
WAS
WAITING
FOR US!

IT'LL MOW
US DOWN,
MARK!
WHAT'LL
WE DO?





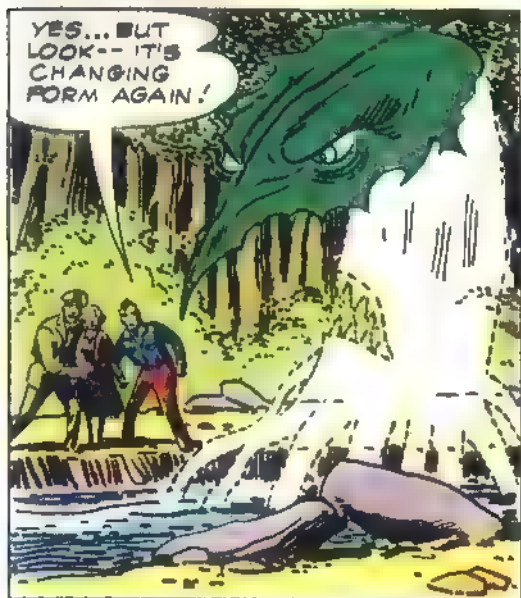
HURRY... FOLLOW ME--OVER THIS BOG!



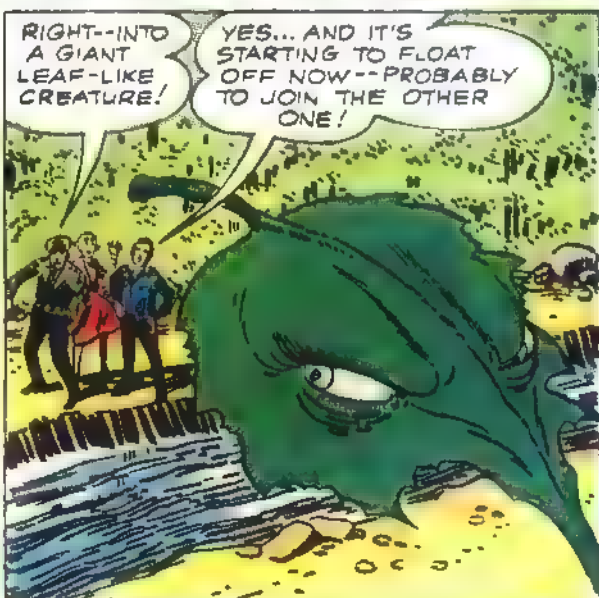
NEXT INSTANT...

THAT WAS QUICK THINKING, MARK--LURING IT INTO THAT BOG WHERE IT GOT STUCK!

PLOP



YES... BUT LOOK-- IT'S CHANGING FORM AGAIN!

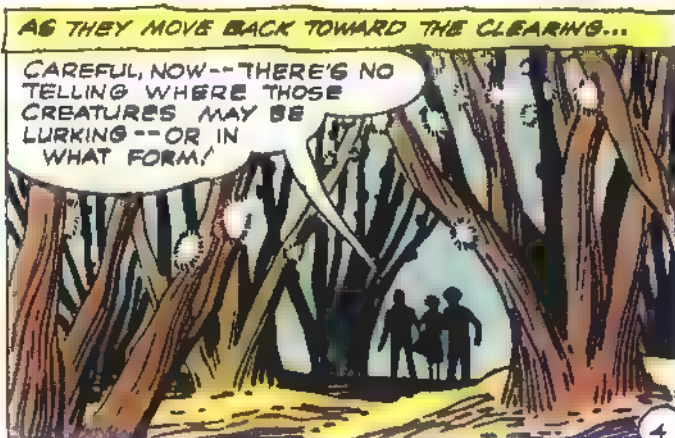


RIGHT--INTO A GIANT LEAF-LIKE CREATURE!

YES... AND IT'S STARTING TO FLOAT OFF NOW--PROBABLY TO JOIN THE OTHER ONE!



COME ON, MARK--I'LL RADIO BASE HEADQUARTERS FOR A BOMBER! WE'LL BLAST THIS WHOLE FOREST TO BITS!

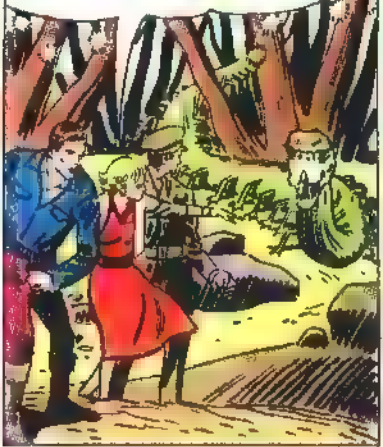


AS THEY MOVE BACK TOWARD THE CLEARING...

CAREFUL, NOW--THERE'S NO TELLING WHERE THOSE CREATURES MAY BE LURKING--OR IN WHAT FORM!

INDEED, AT THAT VERY INSTANT...

LOOK! ONE OF THEM HAS TAKEN THE FORM OF A VINE-CREATURE-- AND IS AFTER US!



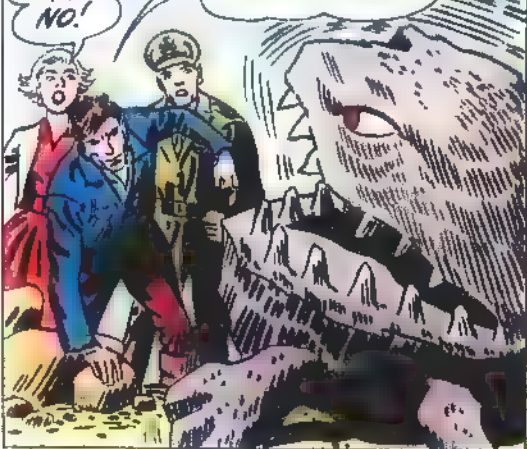
STEADY, ELSA... WE'LL OUTRUN IT--



BUT SUDDEN DEATH FACES THE FLEEING TRIO, WHEN...

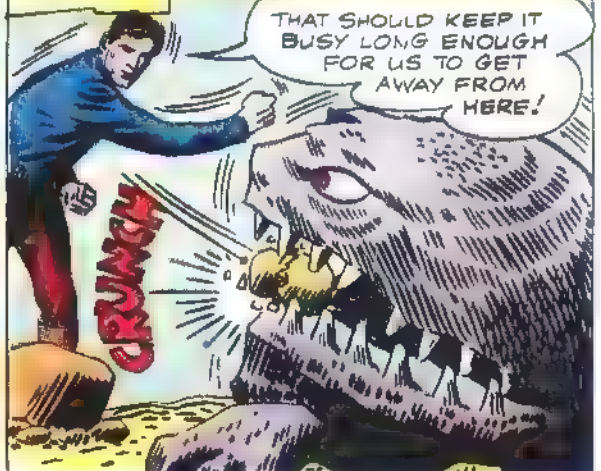
OH, NO!

THIS STONE--OUR ONE CHANCE...



POWERFUL JAWS GAPE OPEN--BUT BEFORE THEY CAN CLAMP SHUT ON THE INTENDED VICTIMS...

THAT SHOULD KEEP IT BUSY LONG ENOUGH FOR US TO GET AWAY FROM HERE!



SHORTLY AFTER, A GRIM COMMAND IS ISSUED...

THAT'S RIGHT, LIEUTENANT... I WANT THE WHOLE FOREST PLASTERED BEFORE THOSE CREATURES CAN BREAK OUT OF IT!



AT THAT MOMENT, HOWEVER, FRESH PERIL THREATENS...

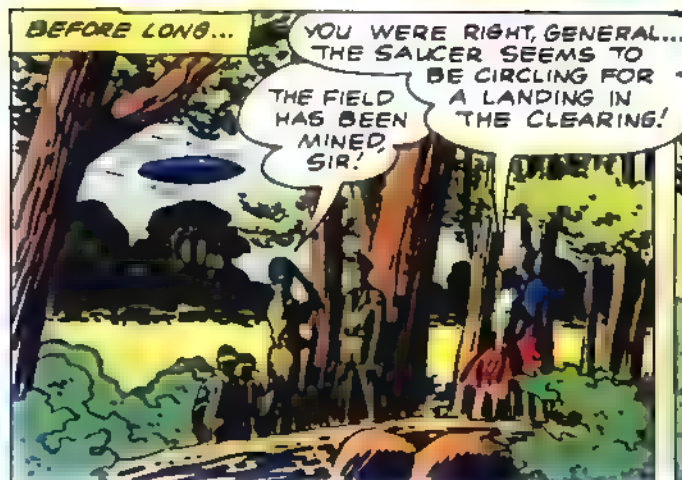
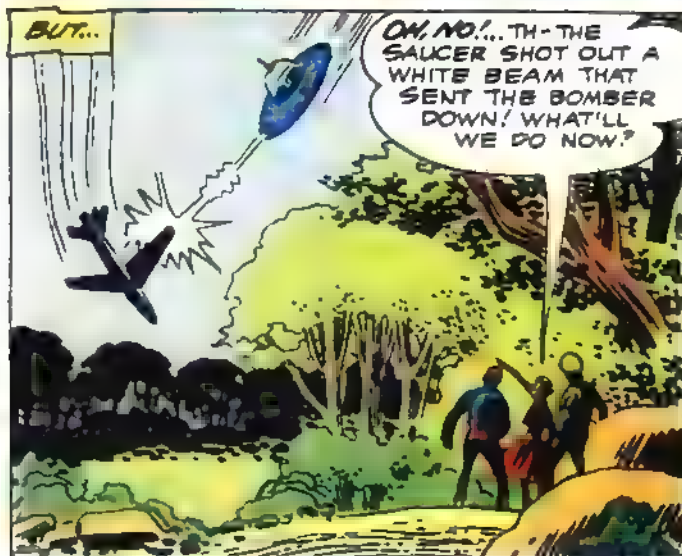
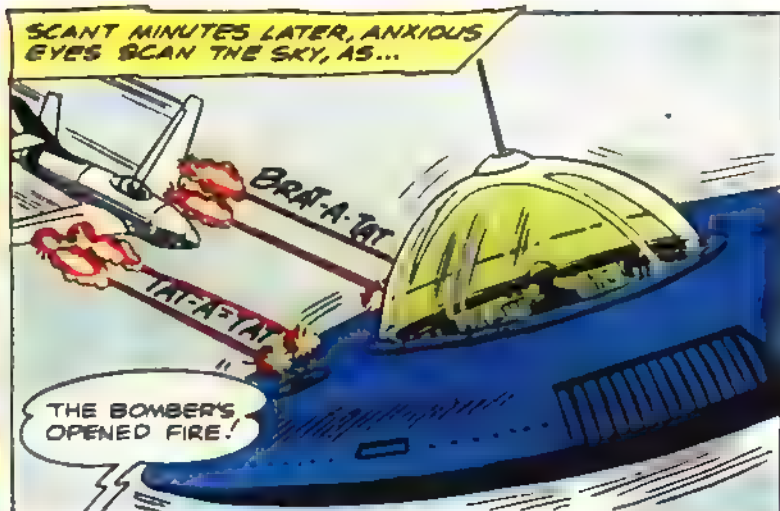
GRACIOUS-- LOOK! A--A FLYING SAUCER!

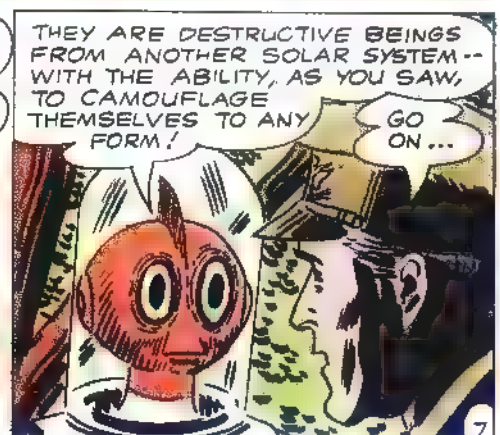
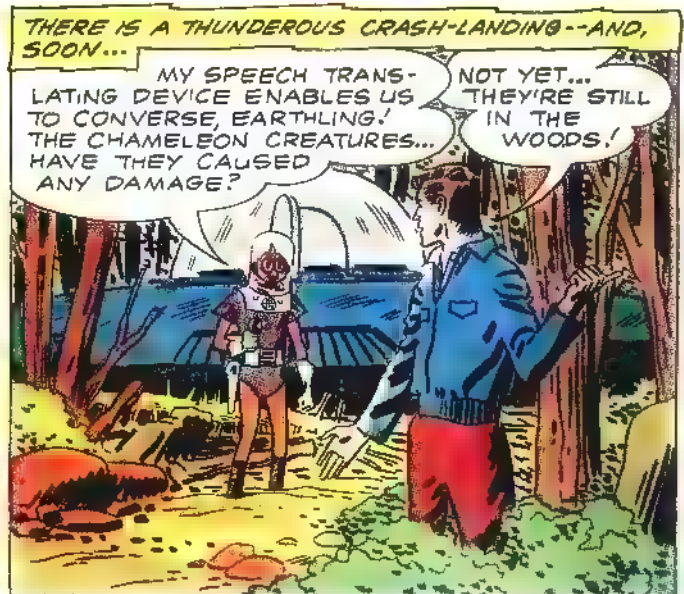
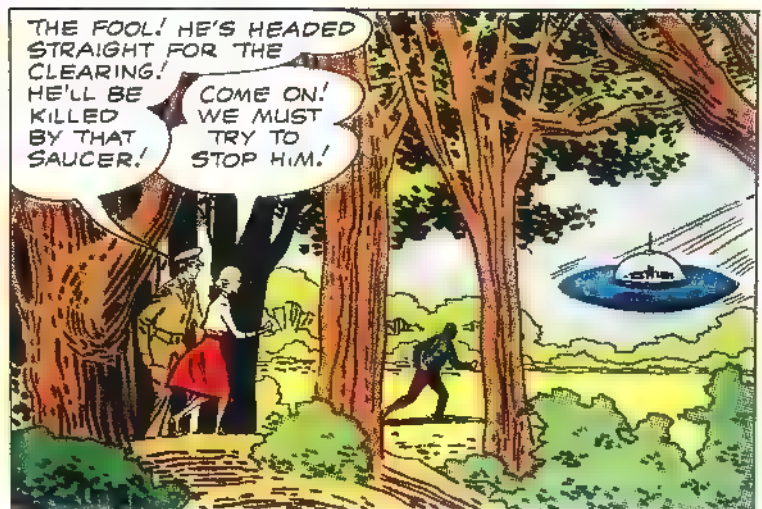
YES--PROBABLY LOADED WITH STILL MORE OF THOSE CREATURES!





HOUSE OF SECRETS





THEY WERE CAUGHT WHILE
IN THE GUISE OF PLANTS--
AND WERE TAKEN TO A PARTI-
CULAR ASTEROID BECAUSE OF
ITS UNUSUAL ATMOSPHERE,
WHICH SOMEHOW PREVENTS
THEM FROM USING THEIR
POWERS. I WAS THEIR
KEEPER... I'D
HOPED TO STOP
YOU WITH THOSE
WARNING SHOTS!



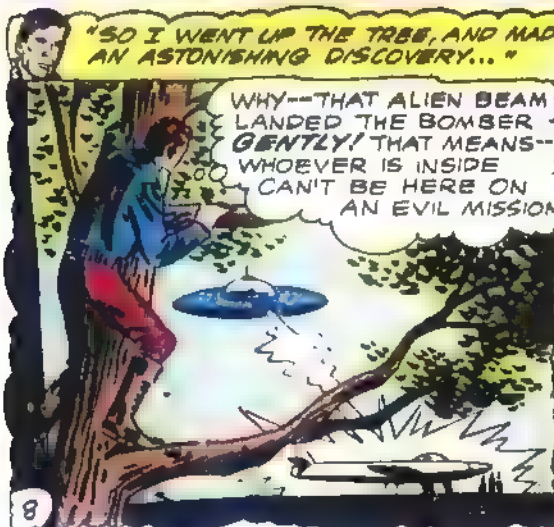
AND NOW YOU CAME
HERE TO GET THEM
BACK! BUT, MARK--
WHAT MADE YOU
REALIZE HE WAS
ON A MISSION TO
HELP US?

I SUDDENLY REALIZED
THAT I HADN'T HEARD
THE CRASH OF THE BOMBER
THAT THE FLYING SAUCER
HAD SUPPOSEDLY SHOT
DOWN!



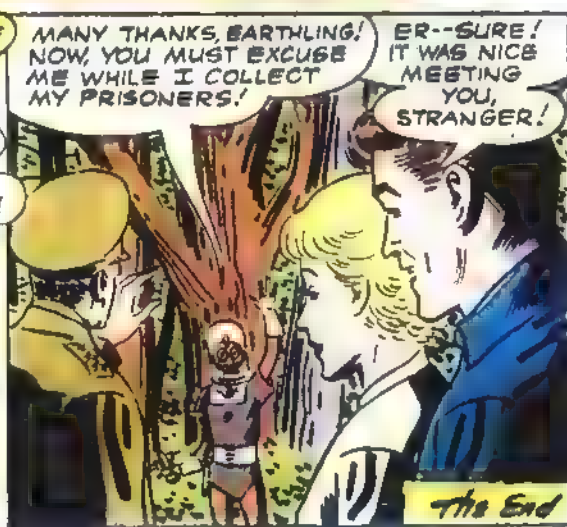
"SO I WENT UP THE TREE, AND MADE
AN ASTONISHING DISCOVERY..."

WHY--THAT ALIEN BEAM
LANDED THE BOMBER
GENTLY! THAT MEANS--
WHOEVER IS INSIDE
CAN'T BE HERE ON
AN EVIL MISSION!



MANY THANKS, EARTHLING!
NOW, YOU MUST EXCUSE
ME WHILE I COLLECT
MY PRISONERS!

ER--SURE!
IT WAS NICE
MEETING
YOU,
STRANGER!



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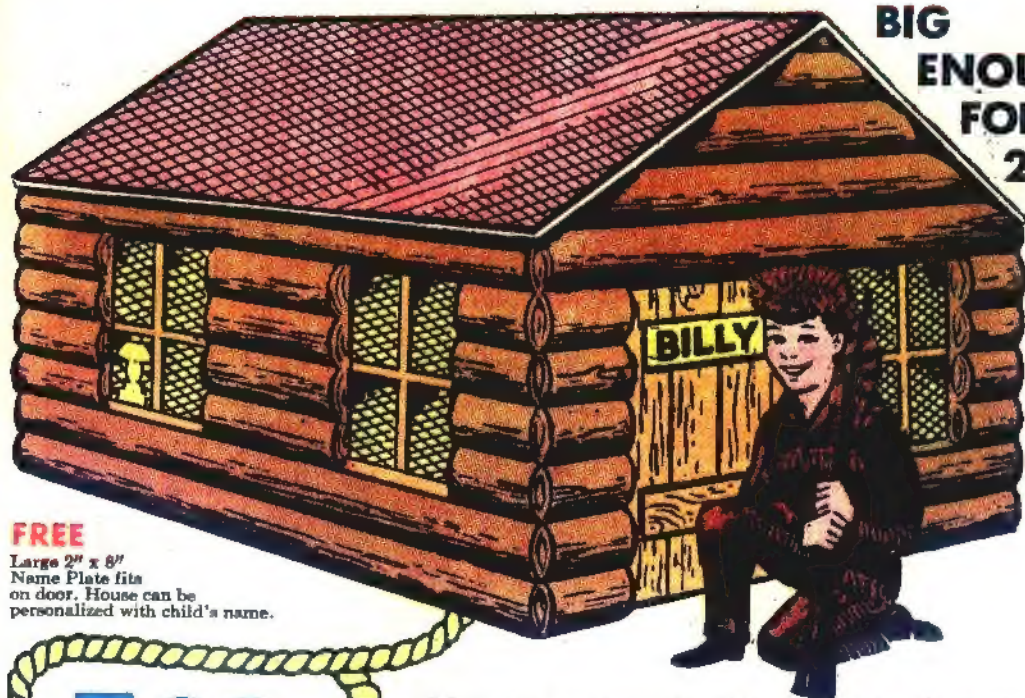


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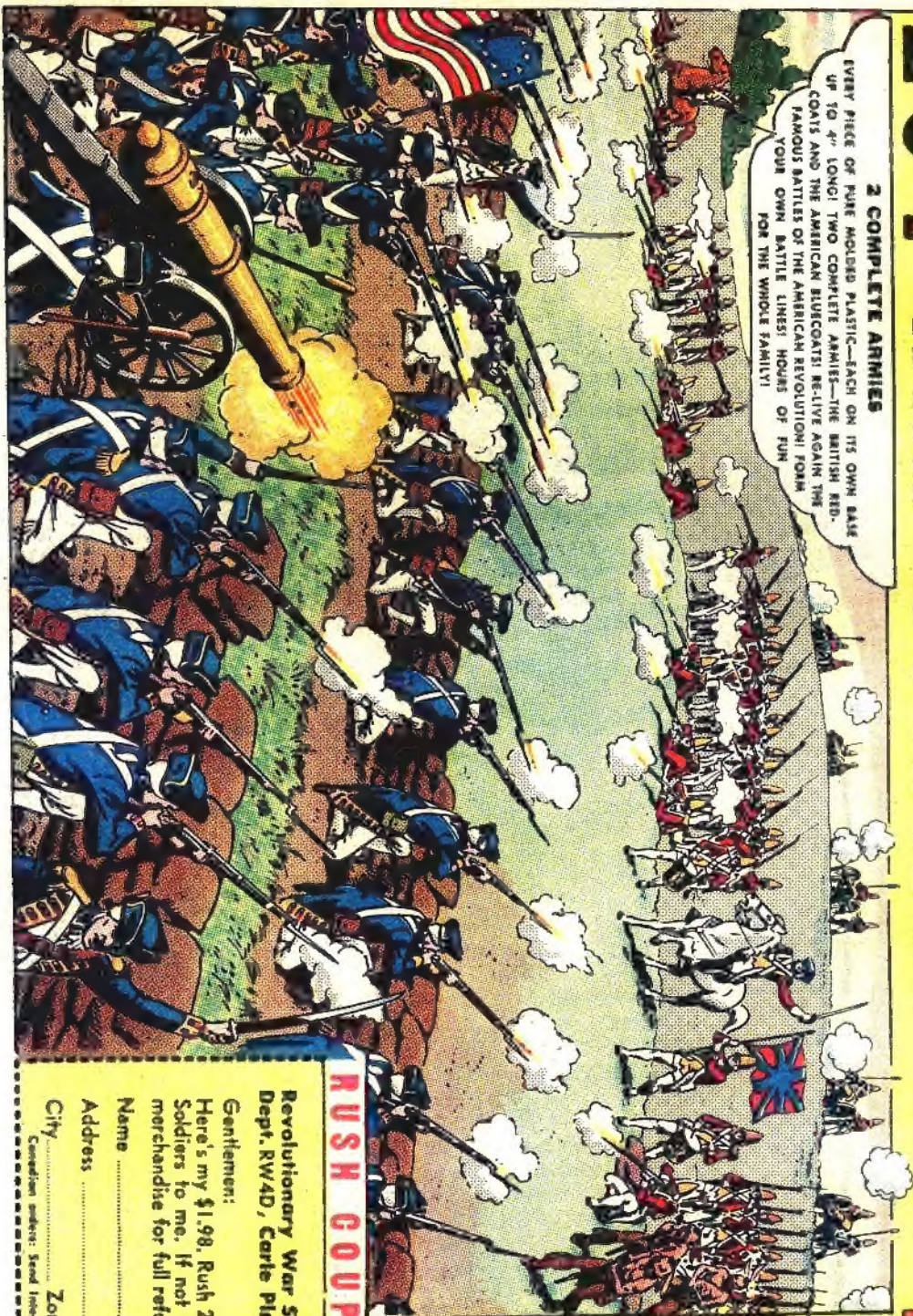
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